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KGB Suspected in Attack on Pope

Experts on Terrorism Report on 1981 Shooting

United Press International

The 1981 papal assassination attempt is a classic case of state-sponsored terrorism and the Soviet KGB almost certainly was behind it, a group of experts on terrorism said yesterday.

The group said terrorism sponsored by governments rivals arms control as the biggest international problem and the United States must begin directly confronting the Soviet Union on it.

The conclusions are in a report by 18 experts on terrorism or on specific aspects of the plot on the pope. The group was led by former national security affairs adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski and Robert Kupperman, a senior associate at Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies. It included former Central Intelligence Agency director Richard Helms and Max M. Kampelman, now President Reagan's chief

negotiator for the U.S.-Soviet arms control talks beginning in Geneva next month.

"The continuing reliance by states on terrorism and other forms of subversion to accomplish political ends may lead to a diminution of international stability and an unprecedented degradation of law and order throughout the world," the group concluded.

"It is imperative that the public and its governments understand the implications of this and begin to formulate the means to prevent its occurrence."

Pope John Paul II was shot and wounded on May 13, 1981. Mehmet Ali Agca, 23, a fugitive Turk and one of Turkey's most wanted criminals, was convicted and sentenced to life in prison in Rome in July 1981.

Kupperman also said the recent cooperation among terrorist groups in West Germany, Belgium and France may ultimately be traced to the KGB.